Inexpensive technology for the production of methane

1657. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in the Economic Times of 22nd February, 1995 to the effect that the Council of Science and Technology in Uttar Pradesh has developed a new inexpensive technology for the production of methane from effluent discharged by the distilleries;

(b) whether Government have attempted to ascertain the details thereof;

(c) if so, what is proposed to be done to promote the use of the technique; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the report has been seen by the Government. As per information obtained from the Council of Science and Technology, Uttar Pradesh, no new, inexpensive technology for production of methane has been developed by the Council.

(c) and (d) Does not arise. Sir.

Creation of a fund for the development of technology

1658. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to create a fund for the development of technology and its application in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner Government think that funding of technology will alleviate the ills of Indian science and contain the brain-drain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Currently, 5 per cent Cess is levied on all payments made towards the import of technology under the Research and Development Cess Act, 1986. The proceeds of the Cess are firstly credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and the Central Government on appropriation by Parliament makes payment to Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) for being utilized for the proposes of Venture Capital Fund.

Government has decided to credit the proceeds of the Cess into a new Fund for Technology Development and Application, to be placed at the disposal of the Department of Science and Technology.

The new Fund is a step towards technology promotion as it provides opportunities to Indian scientists and technologists for commercialisation of indigenous technology and attempts to bridge the complementary strength in our S and T institutions and industrial enterprises. This, inturn, will help in containing the brain drain.

Findings of ISRO espionage investigation

1659. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI JOYANTA ROY:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the finding of the investigations made into the alleged spying of secrets and documents in respect of Indian Space Research Organisation; and

(b) what further steps are being taken in the matter?